

## **COOPERATION AGREEMENT**

**between NOVA University Network and BOVA University Network**

hereinafter referred to as “**the Parties**”,

### **General provisions**

NOVA UN (Nordic Forestry, Veterinary and Agricultural University Network) consisting of eight network members: The University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Sciences (LIFE); University of Helsinki, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry (HU-AF); University of Helsinki, Faculty Veterinary Medicine (HU-V); The Agricultural University of Iceland (LBHI); The Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB); Norwegian School of Veterinary Sciences (NVH); The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU); The University of Joensuu, Faculty of Forest Sciences (JO-F) and

BOVA UN (The Baltic Forestry, Veterinary and Agricultural University Network) consisting of four network members: The Latvia University of Agriculture (LLU); The Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU); The Lithuanian University of Agriculture (LZUU); The Lithuanian Veterinary Academy (LVA),

- pursuant to the Letter of Intent on cooperation between NOVA and BOVA signed in Jelgava on May 10, 2007;
- based on the experience of cooperation on the arena of higher education since 1996

### **have agreed to the following:**

The Parties will continue to develop and perform joint educational and research activities for the mutual benefit of all institutions involved.

### **Aims of the Agreement**

The Parties agree that:

1. Building a strong educational and research network on the platform of the NOVA UN and BOVA UN is an important instrument in increasing international competitiveness of studies and research in the member institutions.
2. The added value from participation in the networks and between networks increases the quality of studies, competitiveness of graduates, extends the possibilities for joining research groups in the Nordic-Baltic and European arena.
3. Exchange of experience between networks enhances existing collaboration and raises the quality assurance of joint activities.

## **Common Activities**

4. Strategic discussions and plans, and information exchange between the two organisations will be performed on the level of joint meeting between NOVA Board and BOVA Rector's Board every third year.
5. Exchange of information and ideas for joint activities and plans for the implementation of activities on operational level will be performed yearly on the level of NOVA KUF and BOVA CC joint meetings.
6. Areas for joint activities are:
  - a) MSc education (short intensive courses, joint programmes, mobility of Master level students).
  - b) PhD education (PhD level courses).
  - c) Professional development of academic staff (teacher mobility, extension of existing academic networks, development of new academic networks).
  - d) Exchange of experience between administrative staff (meetings and visits between NOVA and BOVA secretariats, NOVA/BOVA Nordplus network meetings, etc.).
  - e) Organization of joint conferences and seminars on educational development and quality assurance.
7. Specific regulations to facilitate common activities:
  - a) BOVA PhD students can in 2009 participate in NOVA PhD courses free of course charge. The same applies to NOVA PhD students in BOVA PhD courses. Regulations on course fees beyond 2009 are to be decided by NOVA KUF and BOVA CC, respectively.
  - b) BOVA members can participate as one of at least three network countries in grant applications submitted to NOVA.
  - c) NOVA PhD courses are promoted to be held at BOVA institutions, where the BOVA host is committed to participate in the course arrangements.

## **Coordination of activities**

8. Each activity involving both NOVA and BOVA should be coordinated by one of the secretariats based on an agreement between the two. The coordinating secretariat is responsible for the effective implementation of the joint activity.

## **Financial contribution**

9. The aim of this agreement is not to establish a joint pool for common activities nor introduce an annual fee.
10. Joint activities will depend on external funds obtained from different sources (such as NORDPLUS, NORDFORSK, EU programmes, any national programmes) by the joint effort of involved Parties.
11. Each Party is legible to decide on the participation and the level of participation in any of the activities, which require co-financing.
12. Both of the two mentioned organisations have their own budgets and the decision on allocation of any funds for joint activities depends on each Party's consent.



## Report of activity

13. A joint report of results from the NOVA/BOVA collaboration will be prepared annually and presented to the NOVA and BOVA Board meetings during the spring semester of the following year.

## Period of Validity

14. The Agreement will be considered for renewal and revision at the next meeting between the NOVA Board and BOVA Rectors' Board in three years (2011).

In witness of thereof, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

Signed in Jelgava on 21<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008 in two (2) original copies in the English language, all copies being equally valid.

## Parties



NOVA Board Chair  
*Vice-chancellor Lisa Sennerby Forsse*



BOVA Board Chair  
*Rector Juris Skujāns*